

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 2237

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, NL
SUBJECT: DUTCH COMMUNIST PARTY: BACK IN THE FOLD

REF: THE HAGUE 1893 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: ESTRANGED FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST
MOVEMENT FOR MORE THAN A DECADE, THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE
NETHERLANDS (CPN) HAS TAKEN A MAJOR STEP TOWARD A FULL RETURN
TO THE FOLD. A RECENT VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION BY LEADERS
OF THE DUTCH PARTY RESULTED IN AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE CPN
AND CPSU WERE IN AGREEMENT ON MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ISSUES
AND WERE RESUMING FULL CONTACTS. END SUMMARY.

2. SINCE 1964 WHEN THE CPN WENT ITS OWN WAY AFTER DECIDING
THAT INTERNATIONAL POLICY SHOULD BE DETERMINED BY THE DOMESTIC
POLITICAL SITUATION, RELATIONS WITH THE CPSU AND OTHER
COMMUNIST PARTIES HAVE BEEN ALMOST NON-EXISTENT. THE DUTCH
COMMUNISTS, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF FORMER (NOW HONORARY)
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CHAIRMAN PAUL DE GROOT AND CHAIRMAN HENK HOEKSTRA SAT OUT THE
REST OF THE 60'S AND FIRST HALF OF THE 70'S AS FAR AS INTER-
NATIONAL COMMUNISM WAS CONCERNED, DEVOTING THEIR EFFORTS TO
INTERNAL AFFAIRS. SIDING WITH NEITHER IN THE SINO-SOVIET
SPLIT, THE CPN ADOPTED A "POX ON BOTH HOUSES" ATTITUDE. FOR
ABOUT TEN YEARS THE CPN REFUSED TO ATTEND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST
PARTY MEETINGS AND DID NOT SHRINK FROM CRITICISM OF OTHER

PARTIES. BEGINNING IN 1975, HOWEVER, A GRADUAL RAPPROCHEMENT BEGAN TO TAKE PLACE. DE GROOT, WHO HAD INSTIGATED THE 1964 BREAK, TOOK STEPS IN EARLY 1975 TO HEAL THE BREACH VIA A SERIES OF ARTICLES IN THE CPN DAILY NEWSPAPER "DE WAARHEID," WHICH WERE POSITIVE TOWARD THE CPSU. THOSE INITIAL OVERTURES WERE FOLLOWED BY OTHER MOVES, INCLUDING CPN ATTENDANCE AT THE JUNE 1976 MEETING OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES IN BERLIN.

3. A VISIT BY DE GROOT, HOEKSTRA AND TWO OTHER CPN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS (SCHREUDERS AND HOOGKAMP) TO MOSCOW LAST WEEK FOR TALKS WITH CPSU POLITBUREAU MEMBERS SUSLOV AND PONOMARYOV BROUGHT THE DUTCH PARTY BACK INTO GOOD GRACES. JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT EMPHASIZED SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES. "DE WAARHEID" ACCOUNTS OF THE VISIT FOCUS ON THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CPN AND CPSU ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, ON THE VALUE THE CPN PLACES ON SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY, AND ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO ON THE BASIS OF INTERNATIONALIST EQUALITY AND COOPERATION.

4. COMMENT: AT A TIME WHEN INTERNAL POLITICAL PRESSURES TO DISTANCE THEMSELVES PUBLICLY FROM MOSCOW ARE CAUSING OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES TO BECOME EUROCOMMUNISTS, THE CPN HAS TAKEN THE DECISION TO MEND ITS FENCES. DOMESTICALLY IT ACTS MUCH LIKE OTHER EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES BUT DOES NOT HAVE THE POLITICAL CLOUT OF SOUTHERN EUROPEAN PARTIES TO FORCE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS TO COOPERATE. ALTHOUGH THE CPN CALLS FOR A POPULAR FRONT GOVERNMENT IN HOLLAND, THE DUTCH SOCIALISTS CONTINUE TO IGNORE THEM. THE CPN RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THE CPSU
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WILL NOT CAUSE THE DUTCH LABOR PARTY TO CHANGE ITS POLICY.
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Message Attributes

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